FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RTD TO ROLLOUT A SERIES OF ROUTE ENHANCEMENTS IN JULY

Velarde and Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo Stops Added

The North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) will rollout a series of seven route enhancements in July to fulfill service needs expressed by residents of the district. The move also improves sustainability by reducing vehicles from our highways and adds to its regional interconnectivity.

The first enhancements will begin July 8 with a stop in Velarde on the Taos to Española route, and a stop in the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, at the Library, on the Riverside route.

Anthony Mortillaro, Executive Director of the NCRTD, noted that "the enhancements were the result of a concerted effort by the RTD Board, which is made up of County Commissioners, City Councilors and Tribal Representatives from the District's area, RTD staff and members of the communities in which the enhancements are being made. It also acknowledges the service area's needs for greater access to local transit, improved regional transit connectivity, and to employment opportunities, education and essential services.

"This now extends our north/south service area 175 miles from Edgewood in south Santa Fe County to Costilla just below the Colorado state line in northern Taos County," Mortillaro concluded.

These modifications are unrelated to the updating of the District's five-year service plan for which a series of community meetings have been held over the past month and which may also result in future service modifications in 2014.

The seven route enhancements are:

Rio Arriba County, Velarde/Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo – July 8

Taos to Española Route – adds a stop in Velarde on Highway 68 at the Post Office. Velarde will be a demand stop in that the bus will only stop if a person is waiting at the RTD bus sign to be picked-up, or if a passenger onboard requests to be dropped off at that location.

Riverside Route (Española/Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo) – will be extended into the Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh with pick-up and drop-off at the library. The service extension will be four times daily with one run in the morning, two midday and one in the evening.

[Continued….]

Santa Fe County/ Madrid, Nambé Pueblo, Tesuque Market, Edgewood – July 10

599 Route (Madrid) expansion to include service south along the Highway 14 corridor to Madrid with stops in Cerrillos and Lone Butte, and north to Santa Place Mall (Santa Fe Trails transit center) with stops at the southside WalMart, on Cerrillos Road, and the Santa Fe Outlet Mall. The expansion will provide residents of those communities along the Highway 14 corridor with greater access to the City of Santa Fe, and tourists with bus transit service to Madrid and Cerrillos. It also provides improved connections with the Santa Fe Trails Transit system and will benefit employees and visitors of the Santa Fe County Adult Correctional Facility.

Edgewood Route – In Edgewood the stop will be moved from the Edgewood Senior Center to the Community Center to provide a well-lit area for enhanced security in winter months and greater access to parking.

Pojoaque-Nambé Route – will be expanded from the turn-off of NM 503 at NP 101 directly into Nambé Pueblo with stops at the Pueblo Housing Authority and the Pueblo Governor's Office.

Tesuque Route - will now provide a stop at the Tesuque Village Market.

Taos County/ Costilla – July 15

Questa to Taos Route – will be expanded and now extend to Costilla just below the Colorado state line, for a morning and evening commuter run that will provide workers from the region with access to the Town of Taos and Red River.

For route and schedule information, log onto www.ridethebluebus.com or call toll free 1-866-206-0754.

The North Central Regional Transit District provides free bus service Monday through Friday to a service area that encompasses over 10,000 square miles of north central New Mexico including the counties of Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Taos; the Cities of Santa Fe and Española and the Towns of Taos and Edgewood; as well as the Pueblos of Pojoaque, Ohkay Owingeh, Nambé, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara and Tesuque. The company's signature "RTD Blue Buses" provide additional transit connections to New Mexico Rail Runner, Santa Fe Trails, New Mexico Park and Ride, Los Alamos Atomic City Transit, Taos Chile Line and Red River Miner's Transit. All of its buses are equipped with bike racks and are ADA accessible.

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